

Travel

Where to go,
how to get there
and things to do



Yellowstone Still Glorious Trip Even After Changes

By KAYLENE NELSEN
Assistant City Editor

Seeing Yellowstone Park is always like the first time, for me anyway.

Almost anyone can feel the same way because of all the changes constantly going on in the park. Many can remember driving almost to the edge of Old Faithful, parking the car and watching the most famous geyser spout off just a few feet away. No more.

Now there's a short freeway system to get into the Old Faithful area. It can be a little jarring for someone who remembers how it used to be.

More and more the manmade portions of the first national park in the United States must be changed to protect what Mother Nature has created. Man cannot be trusted, without laws, to leave Mother Nature alone.

Those who have visited the park many times over the last 20 years will more readily see the changes. One used to drive near Morning Glory Pool but now it is a hike over a mile from Old Faithful. More boardwalks surround the thermal areas and all now bear warnings: "It is unlawful to leave the boardwalk," and "Smoking Not Permitted in Thermal Areas."

One might wonder why until a visit to Norris Geyser Basin. Out near the boardwalk that meanders around small geysers is a sign. "This is a vandalized geyser" it proclaims of the lifeless hole in the earth. So many tourists pumped rocks and debris into the opening that the underground inlets were blocked. It is now illegal to throw pennies into the hot pools, once a popular thing to bring good luck.

A fence keeps visitors from stealing pieces of the petrified tree and touching the awesome piece of nature's work as well.

Fishermen can no longer use live bait in the park. So many "sucker" fish have been brought in over the years that they now rival the native trout for the valuable spawning spaces.

A sign at Obsidian Cliff warns of the federal laws about removing the obsidian rocks. Many will recall lines of cars parked at the area, scouring the slopes for the shiny black glass.

Years ago, those lines of cars also signaled a bear, usually poised on two legs, showing off for the tourists or begging for handouts. Now a bear seen around tourists is captured and trucked away into the higher country.

Other animals, protected by man now, display an attitude of toler-

ance for humans, many not finding the two-legged creatures anything to fear or run from. Buffalo now roam the park in almost every area. Early in June this year the beasts were munching grass next to the cabins at Yellowstone Lake, walking aimlessly down the road near Upper Falls. Their forms dotted the Hayden Valley until one couldn't count them all. Elk, mule deer and a few moose could be found everywhere.

Squirrels, chipmunks and marmots also showed no fear of man. Silky black ravens seemed to pose for cameramen.

While the animals are active during the early part of the season, the tourists are sparse. Picnic tables are easily found, and throngs of people don't crowd the popular spots.

"A photographic and Comprehensive Guide to Yellowstone National Park" is a must for any visitor. The book shows and tells of all the sights one will see while touring the park. Many are not listed on the maps given out at the entrances. The book details the geologic happenings, explains what caused some of the sights one sees while touring by car, and points out areas and animals to watch for while traveling areas of the park.



Randall Nelsen Photo

Buffalo roam Yellowstone freely, sometimes grazing near cabins at Lake Yellowstone Lodge.

Summer Melodrama Slated in Park City

PARK CITY — Melodrama returns to the Egyptian Theatre, 328 Main St., this summer with the production of "Deadwood Dick, or, The Game of Gold" presented by Park City Performances every Friday and Saturday night through Aug. 31 at 7:30 p.m.

The Gay '90s melodramas so hilarious: long-lost daughters, stolen gold mines, kidnapped heroines and intrigue! The audience is encouraged — indeed expected — to hiss the villain and cheer the heroes. Tickets can be purchased at the Kimball Art Center or reserved by calling the theater in advance. Group rates are available.

This rootin' tootin' melodrama is filled with the elements that made



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"Pajama Game," a musical comedy of love and war in a pajama factory, opens Thursday at BYU

Pajama Game to Open at Y

The hot July air isn't the only thing that will be steaming in Utah this summer.

Beginning July 25, Brigham Young University will present "Pajama Game," a piece of classical musical comedy featuring frequent

heated battles between labor and management in a pajama factory. Performances will be seen Tuesdays through Saturdays through Aug. 10 at 8 p.m. in the Pardoe Drama Theatre of the Harris Fine Arts Center. An additional per-

formance is scheduled Aug. 5 at 4:30 p.m. Several of the songs by Richard Adler and Jerry Ross became familiar to American audiences when the play became a Doris Day and Rock Hudson movie. Most fa-

mous among them are "Hernando's Hideaway," "Steam Heat," "Hey There" and "Once a Year Day."

Tickets are available through the drama ticket office.